

ipient of a gift" in that. When Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again," did he mean this new birth would take place regardless of the will of Nicodemus?

"We find ourselves Christians," says Rev. Newman. I wonder whoever found himself a Christian. Concerning myself I did not, and in my experience I never have met anyone else that did. We are taught to accept Christ by a definite act of faith; to become a Christian thru faith, repentance and baptism. But in Mr. Newman's teaching I find no place for conversion.

Brethren let us cling to the sound doctrine of the New Testament.

Milledgeville, Ill.

IN BEHALF OF THE CHURCH

J. C. MACKEY

When those few devoted men of God, led by Alexander Mack, came to this country, nearly two centuries ago, they brought with them the purpose of a grand and noble faith; and we who now live are permitted to witness the vigor, growth and life of the precious church which they were instrumental in establishing in this land. For almost two hundred years this branch of the Lord's planting has been rooting and spreading—carrying love and blessing wherever it went—giving rest and refreshment to many a weary one, and manifesting new beauties day by day, which we cannot fail to admire.

As a church our standard is scriptural, our people are pre-eminent for piety and uncompromising in their adherence to the truth of God; while for Christian scholarship, the last ten years have led us to higher altitudes than were ever hoped for, even by the most sanguine of the brethren. So we ought to honor our ecclesiastical individuality, and resent any intrusion that might tend to mar our identity. Our faith came to us baptized in the prayers and praises of the saints, and we should stand by it with unswerving fidelity, especially in this day of so-called liberalism and independent thought, when there is an evident determination to undervalue the importance of the teachings of the Gospel of the blessed God, without which there can be no strong, vigorous, stalwart, manly spirituality.

But we must recognize the state of the church and earnestly deplore it. The church of the New Testament and the apostles is surely one. The prayer of our Lord—"that they all may be one"—involves a larger measure of union than we have yet realized. Therefore ought we to diligently search the Scriptures and firmly attest their truth in the daily life.

Along this line, as our General Conference is approaching, I would suggest the appointment of corresponding delegates to other general bodies of such churches as are already allied with us in faith and doctrine. The nations see the importance of establishing diplomatic relations with each other. Such relations give evidence not only of good feeling and a reasonable assurance of its continuance, but is also predictive of better

things in the future. The mutual intercourse of the German Baptist, Old Order and Progressive Brethren (I have used the familiar names by which these are known) thru fraternal delegations, I believe, would go a long way toward softening prejudices, removing asperities and advancing Christian work, and thus bind us closer together in the bonds of sincere affection. Our delegates might not be received freely at first; but I feel sure that with the eminent men that belong to the several communions referred to, by and by our reception might be all that could be wished.

If such diplomatic relationships should be inaugurated our church ought to recollect that she is the lineal descendant of that time honored band of the banks of Eider. We represent their principles, order and contentings for the crown rights of our divine Lord and King. Other bodies are more or less remotely connected with them; but the Brethren church proceeds directly from them.

When we are asked to what branch of the Brethren we belong, our reply should be, "to none—we belong to the root." This may be a strong assertion for a body so small as our own. We have been ridiculed for the maintenance of this true ecclesiastical position. Larger bodies have threatened to swallow us up. But on all such occasions we feel like saying something like the man said to a pugilist who boasted that he would put him in his pocket, "You will have more brains in your pocket than you have in your head." In a word, let it be remembered, that as a church we did not cede from any other religious body. With that said, be it then said, that we ardently love all the brethren of like precious faith. Occupying common ground in doctrine and practice, we can not be limited by narrow bounds. We are fellow laborers in the same vast field, and for the same great results, which shall appear in the final adjustments of holiness, and the harmonies of peace that shall bless mankind.

In behalf of the church we should prepare for great and still greater things, inspired by the feeling that if we had a thousand hearts we would love her with them all, and if we had a thousand lives we could lay them all down for her sake.

THE WORLD'S NEED

C. ORVILLE WITTER

The season at Winona is drawing to a close. The Chautauqua session, the summer school and the Missionary Conference are past. The Bible Conference is now in session. It has been a good season and the literary, scientific and spiritual feasts have been very pleasant and profitable.

After hearing Dr. Chapman and Dr. Morehead I began to think of the different sermons I had heard during the summer. I have heard scientific sermons, which were logical and powerful arguments, literary sermons which were ethical and which could not but make the hearer better, theological sermons which were full of thought and excellent expositions of technical points in the

Bible; and then I heard sermons which were simply plain treatments of the Gospel.

All of these are beneficial to a Christian and a student but which are the ones that the world of sinners need? Which sort will reach the wayfaring man and lead him to the Savior? It is not the Christians that need the preaching so much as the world outside and even if we do need it, what is good for the sinner is good for us. We all need the Gospel of repentance and baptism for the remission of sin. Lover as I am of science and scientific discourses, and also so much as I delight in the masterpieces of literature and flowery speech and flights of rhetoric and oratory, yet I believe the most powerful weapon the preacher can use against the hosts of sin is the Word of God told in a simple manner in words that a child can understand.

It is very uncomfortable to sit and listen to a man when he is preaching so that you can't understand him. If good is to come in such circumstances it is the minister who must change. He must come down out of the heights and stand on a level with his people. But whatever he does, or however he preaches, it is the Gospel he must use to win souls to Christ. Why was Moody such a power? Because he was thoroughly consecrated to his Master's service and told the story so that the simplest man in his audience could get the meaning.

Pastors should educate themselves as much as they can in all lines of knowledge but when they face their congregation on Sunday morning they should give them what they come for, "The sincere milk of the Word."

Out of four hundred inquiries made of men in a large city as to why they did not go to church the great majority responded that it was because the Gospel was not preached in the churches. Brethren, if you are called to the ministry you are called to preach the Gospel of our Lord and Savior and nothing else.

Home Circle

The Mother's Prayer

Starting forth on life's rough way,
Father, guide them;
O, we know not what of harm
May betide them!
'Neath the shadow of thy wing,
Father, hide them;
Waking, sleeping, Lord, we pray,
Go beside them.
When in prayer they cry to Thee,
Do Thou hear them;
From the stains of sin and shame
Do Thou clear them;
'Mid the quicksands and the rocks
Do Thou steer them;
In temptation, trial, grief,
Be Thou near them.
Unto Thee we give them up:
Lord, receive them.
In the world we know must be
Much to grieve them—
Many striving oft and strong
To deceive them;
Trustful, in Thy hands of love
We must leave them.

—William Cullen Bryant.